The above then, my dear Sir, is a brief synopsis of Dr. Lund's letter, which may, perhaps, have already reached you by way of Europe; but of this I am not assured, and have determined to send it.

Having given you the general features of this letter, it would be presumptuous in me to hazard any remarks to one so skilled in Anthropology; and I would only suggest, that fossil remains are not confined to Minas Geraes, but are also found in the western part of this Province, and in Bahia.

Near the city of Rio de Janiero of course nothing of the kind has been discovered, as the formation is entirely Granitic; but from the point where the calcareous rocks commence, (about ninety miles inland, near Canto Gallo,) I am informed that fossils are abundant.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks to you, personally, and the members of the Academy generally, for the honor conferred by my election as a corresponding member, and for the kind interest they have taken in my enterprise, and

Remain, dear Sir,
Your most obd't servt.
I. G. STRAIN.
Corresponding Member A. N. S.

To Samuel George Morton, M. D., Vice President of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

Meeting for Business, February 27, 1844.

MR. PEARSALL in the Chair.

The Monthly Report of the Corresponding Secretary was read and adopted.

The Committee to whom was referred the following paper, read at the last meeting, reported in favor of publication.

On a supposed New Species of Hippopotamus.

By S. G. MORTON, M. D.

It is about six months since I received from my friend Dr. Goheen an extensive series of skulls, of mammiferous and other animals, from Western Africa. They had been obtained by him during a residence of several years at Monrovia, where he had

officiated as Colonial Physician; a situation which gave him great advantages for procuring the natural productions of that region. Among these crania were two of a Hippopotamus, of small size, from the river St. Paul's. Although nothing could be more manifest than the difference between the head of this animal and that of the common species, I have hesitated to publish it, from a fear that some one else may already have done so; for I could hardly convince myself that so remarkable a species was wholly unnoticed in the systems. Having, however, searched the latest European works on Zoology without finding any account of this interesting animal, I venture to submit the following facts in relation to it.

HIPPOPOTAMUS MINOR.

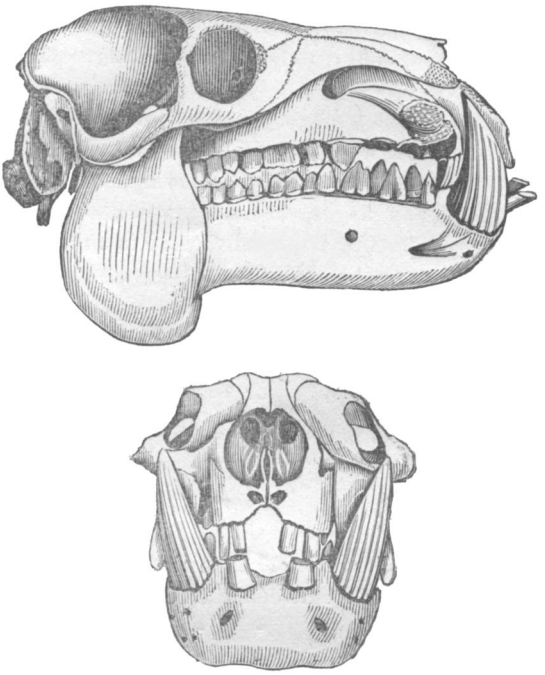
Dental Formula: Incisors, $\frac{4}{2}$ or $\frac{2-2}{1-1}$; Canines, $\frac{1-1}{1-1}$

False Molars, $\frac{4-4}{4-4}$; Molars, $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$

	Inches.
Length of the skull, measured from the anterior extremity to the notch between the condyles of the occipital bone,	12.3
Zygomatic diameter,	8.
Parietal diameter,	3.5
Distance between the orbits over the surface of the skull,	3.9
Vertical diameter of orbit,	2.
Horizontal diameter of orbit,	1.8

These measurements have been taken from a very old individual, in which the sutures are entirely obsolete, and the teeth worn almost to the level of the jaw; and the contrast in size, between this and the large or common species, (familiar to every one as the H. *amphibius*, but recently divided into two species, the H. capensis and H. Senegalensis,) will be manifest to every one. The difference, however, is not only in size, but in

all the proportions of the head, as the subjoined drawings will show.



In the H. *minor* there is a uniform *convexity* of the upper surface of the cranium, from orbit to orbit, and between the occiput and ossa nasi; while in the common species the orbits are remarkably elevated, and the intermediate surface is *concave*. The orbit is placed about midway between the occiput and snout, and the latter is consequently short; while in the large species the orbits are placed about one-third the distance between the occiput and snout. The H. *minor* has only two canines in the lower jaw; the false molars are proximate to the canines; and the base of the zygomæ is in the same plane with the upper maxilla.

The second skull of this species (which is of the same length as the other) is that of a younger animal; for the sutures are open, and the teeth in the process of changing from the deciduous to the permanent set. The posterior molars are only partially

protruded, and rise obliquely from the jaws, like those of the Elephant and Mastodon.

Dr. Goheen, who assured me from the first that he could find no notice of this animal in the systematic works, has obligingly favoured me with the following memorandum in relation to it. "This animal abounds in the river St. Paul's, and varies in weight from four hundred to seven hundred pounds. They are slow and heavy in their motions, yet will sometimes stray two or three miles from the river, in which situation they are killed by the natives. They are extremely tenacious of life, and almost invulnerable, excepting when shot or otherwise wounded in the heart. When injured they become irritable and dangerous, but are said by the natives never to attack them when in their canoes. The negroes are very fond of the flesh, which seems to be intermediate in flavor between beef and veal."

My comparisons with the common Hippopotamus have been made on four specimens, (three of which are fully grown,) two from the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope, and two from the Senegal river.

The Chevalier Amedeo Avogardo, of Turin, was then elected a Correspondent of the Academy.